

Heber Branch

Presiding Elders and Fort
Buildings

For 1858

united from Provo and either sent to raid the Army
apply trains or stationed in the canyons to defend the
army settlers. A good many men engaged in mov-
ing families south in the exodus of 1858.

By June of 1858, Provo City sheltered many saints
who had fled their northern homes at the coming of
Mormon's Army. Brigham Young, the most prominent
leader in the city at the time, called a meeting at the
temple on June 6, 1858, to discuss building the road up
Provo Canyon. There were now multiple reasons for
the need of construction. Gardner had noted the plentiful
supply of timber in the upper valleys of the Provo and
the Rivers some six years earlier, and the time had
come when the timber was needed. President Young
in his speech to those assembled remarked:

A road up Provo Canyon is much needed, and
we want ten or twenty companies of laborers to go
on it forthwith in order to finish it in about fifteen
days so that you can go into the valleys of the Weber
where there is plenty of timber.

I understand that a company has been chartered
by the legislative assembly to make that road if
those men will come forward we will take the re-
sponsibility of making it. We shall need about 500
laborers.²

The next night the group, including President Young,
C. Kimball, Daniel H. Wells, several of the twelve
apostles, and a large number of brethren, reassembled at
the meeting. Here the Provo Canyon Company was
organized. Brigham Young took 200 shares of stock.
John Little was appointed to superintend the mak-
ing of the road and W. G. Mills was named clerk of the
company.³

The company worked the rest of the summer com-
pleting the road. The river had to be bridged near the

²Journal History, June 6, 1858, p. 2.
³Id., June 7, 1858, p. 1.

Heber
Fort

area

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Wagon

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per 10th

Evidence of

Fort Heber

Add

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